

**AGENDA
PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLIST ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 7, 2020**

**AGENDA ITEM #2
APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

DECEMBER 3, 2019

DRAFT

**PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019
CITY HALL, WEST MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Colin Smith (Chair); John Kelleher (Vice-Chair); Megan Chapman; Erling Heistad (City Council); Alan Schnur; Marie McCormick; Sarah Crysl Akhtar; Clifton Below (Alt); Alex Belenz (Alt)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Zook (Planning Board)

STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Owens (Associate Planner)

1 **1) CALL TO ORDER:**

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3 Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

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- 5 • Mr. Belenz was appointed to sit in as a regular member in the absence of Karen Zook.
 - 6 • Mr. Below was appointed to sit in as a regular member in the absence of Friends of the Northern
 - 7 Rail Trail position.
- 8

9 **2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 5th, 2019**

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11 *Councilor Heistad MOVED to approve the November 5th, 2019 minutes as amended below and*
12 *presented in the December 3rd, 2019 agenda packet.*
13 *Seconded by Mr. Belenz*

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15 Amendments:

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17 Page 1, Line 35, Change "In late October" to "On November 3rd".

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19 ** The Vote on the MOTION passed (9-0).*

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21 **3) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

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23 Fran Hanchett, member of the public, came before the board to voice her concerns about pedestrian and
24 bicycle safety. She had an incident where she was standing on the sidewalk and a man on a bicycle came
25 off of the Hanover St. Bridge and flew by her. Because of traffic noise she never heard him coming and
26 was concerned that he could have hit her because he gave no warning that he was going by her and he
27 was riding on the sidewalk.

28
29 Ms. Hanchett had also observed kids riding their bikes across the street instead of getting off the bike and
30 walking it across the street. She believed it is the law that they should be getting off and walking the
31 bicycle.

32
33 Ms. Hanchett lives off of Mascoma Street and has observed bikes not stopping at the stop signs. She is
34 worried that someone is going to get seriously hurt if something isn't done to educate or enforce the laws
35 of bicycle and pedestrian safety.

36

Ms. Owens responded that there are signs going up on the rail trails in the spring. If approved, the pending CIP budget item for Hanover Street improvements would also fund better bicycle lanes on that segment. Ms. McCormick and Mr. Belenz mentioned that perhaps PSA's about where people should ride their bikes could go out. Mr. Below believed that the State of NH does some bicycle safety training in their driver's education courses. Ms. Chapman suggested that Lebanon look into signs for bicyclists like the Town of Hanover uses.

4) STUDY ITEMS:

A. Updates from Other Boards

- Ms. Owens updated the Committee on the taking of minutes starting January 1, 2020. The Committee will no longer have a Recording Secretary available to them. They will still record the meetings and they will need to take their own notes and minutes. Ms. Owens can do a recap in an email to the Committee members after each meeting highlighting the things they need to keep track of.

- Safe Routes to School - Planning Staff/Police Staff

Ms. Owens and Mr. David Brooks met with Chief Mello. He said a year ago in January of 2019 he met with the School Board in regards to the Safe Routes to School Initiative. The School Board was to get back with him and has not done so yet.

- City Council – Erling Heistad

Mr. Heistad advised that there was nothing to report from City Council that will affect the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee.

- Police Reports - Alan Schnur

Mr. Schnur reported that there was zero crashes involving bikes or pedestrians for the month of October. He is still waiting on the report for November.

- Mascoma River Greenway Coalition - Colin Smith

Mr. Colin will be attending the Friends of Lebanon Recreation meeting on Thursday and will have more updates after that meeting.

- Rails to Trails-VACANT

Ms. Owens reported that at the last meeting it was brought to her attention that the signs on the snowmobile trail were installed incorrectly. She went out to the trails with someone from Public Works and the signs were indeed installed incorrectly. This will be addressed, but unfortunately the ground is frozen so she is not sure when this will be fixed.

There is also a new New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition that has been formed. Keene, Concord and Manchester are all very active in this coalition and she believes Lebanon would want to be as well.

- Planning Office - Planning Staff

Ms. Owens updated the Committee on the following projects:

10 Bank St: This is a residential project behind the library across from the Ava Gallery. There is already a sidewalk in place. Mr. Belenz was concerned that the project had too many driveways which would create another curb cut that would be another opportunity to cause an accident. Ms. Chapman was concerned with all the extra vehicles in a small area that they are trying to promote more bicycle use in. Mr. Schnur suggested trying a sidewalk that the cars have to go over instead of the pedestrian walk way being lowered; the road would come up to the sidewalk at a crosswalk.

37 Spencer St: This project is moving forward. There will be a sidewalk in front of the first phase, on the north part of Spencer, but not yet across where a second phase of the project is planned.

20 Spencer St: This project is moving forward, with RFP bids under review by EVEC. There would be a

sidewalk at this project on the South side of Spencer Street.

Dartmouth College Archives: This site is on Etna Road and it is more challenging to get sidewalks put in because the road is outside of the urban compact so the City could not maintain them.

Lot 10-10: This is a site being proposed for about 326 units by Dartmouth Hospital. Roads from Centerra would be required to tie into this site area.

Treetops: This project is off of Etna Road. These are residential apartments currently under development. The company building the apartments would like to build more units. There is currently no crosswalks or sidewalks on this road. This may also be caused by the state owning the road.

Mt. Support Rd: There are currently 3 major developments proposed for this road. The first is across from the Timberwood Commons, the next is slightly North of that site and the third project is a smaller parcel just up the road. The 401 Mt. Support Road project will be built in 2 phases with the first phase being 200-300 units. They want to eventually go up to about 1,000 units. This project will consist of 4 buildings, each one will be 4 stories tall. There will be one main access to this development with an emergency access that is chained off. They are also considering an internal shuttle system. The developer of the project is Dartmouth College and they are proposing a shuttle to get grad students to the college. The shuttle would be just for their residents. There will be some covered parking, but not much; mostly surface parking and they will be talking to the Planning Board about bike storage. The developer does want to connect to the existing bike trails around the property. The other two projects are by Saxon Partners who wants to build 250-700 units in phases and a developer named Braverman who wants to build 95 units. Over time there is a potential for well over 1000 new residential units going in on and around Mt. Support Road and Route 120 in the vicinity.

DHMC Patient Tower Expansion: This project would increase the work staff of the hospital by about 300 employees, not including the patients using the tower. This will mean more cars on the road near the hospital. DHMC does not have any new parking added to their plan at the site. They will rely on expansion of Lot 9 in Hanover for parking overflow. There is nothing in the current version of the plans for accommodating more pedestrians or bicycles. They have just the one bike rack and no new bike trail plans. Mr. Kelleher suggested that perhaps DHMC might consider zip bikes as an alternative way to get the employees to work. Ms. Owens said that the Town of Hanover did submit a regional impact letter about the project and that the Hanover Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee had sent a letter in response to the project too.

- Planning Board/CIP Meeting - Karen Zook
- No Report.

5) OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Lebanon Police Local Street Speed Study: The police department is moving forward with the Speed Study. It is a regulatory requirement before they can change any speed limits. They are looking to change some speed limits from 30 MPH to 25 MPH. Chief Mello expressed his desire for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee's support. The Committee decided to wait until the speed study and proposal are on the City Council agenda before they would make a motion for support on the lowering of the speed limits in town.

B. Communications Plan: Ms. McCormick believes they can wait until the next meeting to give a report on their communications plan. Ms. Owens wanted clarification on if Ms. Akhtar's suggestion about using durable reflective patches paid for by local businesses with their businesses logo or advertisement on it would go under the Communications Plan efforts.

4) STUDY ITEMS CONTINUED:

B. Development Regulation Review: Ms. Owens handed out a 3 page bike parking requirements proposal for the site plan regulation amendments. The language in the draft was taken from other areas' written requirements for bicycles parking and storage regulations. Ms. Chapman asked if these new regulations, once approved, would affect these new proposed developments that they talked about in the Committee tonight. Ms. Owens said it just depended on when the regulations were finalized and when they new projects got their applications in. The Committee will look at the regulations and tighten them up. Ms. Akhtar asked if it was possible to give incentives to developers to increase the bike racks over what is needed by regulations. Ms. Owens replied that so far New Hampshire does not have incentives for such things, but maybe some other things could be thought of on a project per project agreement. The Committee members will give feed back in writing to Ms. Owens in 1 week from the December 3rd meeting date on the new bike parking regulations.

6) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & FOLLOW_UP NEEDS:

- Bike Rack Regulations and samples of bike racks
- Police Department Speed Study data and timeframe of when the department will go before the City Council
- Communications Plan Report
- Share the Hanover Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committees comments as well as this Committees comments on the DHMC patient tower project

7) ADJOURMENT:

Mr. Kelleher MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 PM.

Seconded by Mr. Heistad.

**** The MOTION passed unanimously (9-0).***

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Higgins
Recording Secretary